

Plane. anaktuvik Pass.

JAN 22 1953

Barrow Presbyterian Church

BARROW, ALASKA

from Country

JAN 13 REC'D  
REV. WILLIAM C WARTES,  
MISSIONARY-PASTOR-PILOT

FRED IPALOOK, CLERK OF SESSION

*annual*  
NARRATIVE REPORT  
for  
1952

At the beginning of the year 1952, we held our first Communion service of the year and the installation of officers. All the church officers were asked to present themselves either for ordination and installation or for rededication. Five new Elders were the main officers receiving attention, but there was considerable time given to challenging the new Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. At a later time the Board of Deacons was reviewed and re-activated. Both of these boards had been partially inactive for some years.

It has been the policy here to coordinate the Every-member Canvass with Christmas-time, and to climax this program with the Watchnight service at the year's end. Actually the Committee did not finish its work until about the second week of January as a few pledge cards kept coming in. There were 423 pledges. From this vantage point, it is clear that we fell short of the budget as certain individuals were unable to complete their pledges. Some did wonderfully well and were able to keep up quarter by quarter; while still others did not seem to understand their pledges even though quarterly statements are sent out as reminders of amount pledged, given, and due. A few who made substantial pledges did not use even one envelope. Whether they were high pressured by the Canvass visitors and pledged just to get rid of them, I do not know.

Many of those who failed to complete their pledges had their difficulty this last fall when employment at the Navy Base began to fall off. Some of these refused to make any new pledge for 1953, stating that they would try to complete 1952's if they were employed again. One thing that cut the number of pledges for 1953, as well as the amount pledged, was the tendency for more families to pledge together instead of each member of the family pledging individually. Quite a few did that last year, but without any instructions to this end, many more are in this group of pledgers now.

In January the new Session voted to discontinue the haphazard session meeting and have a regular monthly meeting that all Elders would try to attend. Other meetings would be called meetings to be announced in at least two worship services. With this in mind, a monthly dinner meeting was planned and carried out through the year. During the year ten of these Session fellowship dinners were held prior to the regular Session meeting which started at 7:30 P.M. One reason this plan was adopted was to create a better sense of unity and fellowship in the Session, to have a time to relax together without business pressing every thought. In addition to this, Bonnie and I have felt a need to have these men in for meals, but this was near impossible to work out. We have told the Elders that they are to think of the meal as a time each month when they eat with us at our table. Actually, most of the time, we have provided all the food. One Elder's wife is responsible for asking two Elders' wives to provide some kind of bread and dessert. We have served everything from Chinese to Italian meals and had a lot of good times doing it.

The Elders and their wives attended a reception and party honoring the new Elders at the manse on Feb. 1st.

In a further organization of the Session, Board of Deacons and Trustees, the village was broken up into sections with one officer responsible for his particular work in a given area. A detailed plat of the village made from photographs was made to help this plan be practical. This program facilitates calling by the Elders and proper jurisdiction of case problems that arise. It makes it possible for Deacons also to actually keep track of a given block of people and their needs. The trustees fit in here on the new building work groups.

In January we also had our annual Congregational Meeting, though this is largely an educational function at present. They did review the budget and appoint some new Deacons.

Perhaps I should mention that it was in January that our baby, Martha LeNore, was born. To our keen disappointment, the ANS Hospital nurse insisted Bonnie go to Fairbanks. She did, and Martha was born twelve hours after the plane landed. During the year Martha, her brother, and her two sisters have all grown a great deal. They find the snow an ever increasing joy.

In February the Pew Committee made a special effort to raise more money to send outside for new pews. A pulpit, six medium length choir pews, and eight long pews for the main floor were ordered. These came in later on the North Star. We still need about three times that number of pews to complete the floor plan. Also we are running very short on 2x4's and first grad  $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood. As we come closer to completing the building these discrepancies begin to show up. Late in the year the Session and Boards met to form a new Building Committee for 1953. They also planned an accelerated program for the two coldest but best building months of the year (as far as manpower is concerned)--January and February. Inland caribou hunting begins in March, whaling in April, duck hunting from April through August, and sealing has already begun.

Generally the work on the building went slowly through 1952. The reasons for this are multiple, but one problem had to do with the Chairman of the 1952 Building Committee. This was the postmaster who is now in jail in Washington State for embezzlement of Post Office funds. To this date, the case is not clear, but one thing is sure, the legal aspects of the case were notably pathetic. I had to press the U.S. Marshall to even bring the case to anything final. It had been left "hanging fire" month after month with no one knowing what would happen next. There is no understanding the building program nor certain other problems that have arisen without realization of the depth and seriousness of this problem. It has been a curse in the worst sense.

In addition to the aforementioned problems we had a most serious situation with the Navy Base involving seven of our eleven to sixteen year old girls. An additional complexity to this was the fact that one of the Seabees involved and sent to jail in Nome was a member of Barrow Church. He has since been released from jail, gone home, and requested his letter be sent to our Ellensburg, Wash. church.

This flagrant case of contributing to the delinquency of minors plus the embezzlement case plus all the air plane troubles took most of my time and leadership away from the building program for a good long time, as well as leaving us up in the air completely on the Chairman of the Committee. He denied embezzlement to the last, and as his pastor, I could not bring myself to remove him from the committee although this would quickly have been done if it seemed reasonable.

Some work was done, but not what could and should have been. All the inside insulating and inside surfacing of the outer walls was completed during

the colder months prior to Easter. With the coming of warmer temperatures and sunshine, the snow melted off of the roof, and we went to work getting the composition shingles on before it started to rain. After this was completed, work started on the cedar siding and other outside work. During the summer, this and the window casings were completed, and the painting started. After the Vacation Bible Schools here and in Wainwright, I was able to help get the painting finished just before freeze-up.

With the coming of fall, work started inside on the ceiling. This was incomplete at the year's end with a shortage of materials to harrass us. Also during the fall, two of the entries or porches were finished. One of these is the base of the tower, which we will hope to finish in the summer of 1953.

It should be mentioned that our women did much of the work, particularly during the summer, and that they do very fine work. When the weather is very cold, pounding nails is exceedingly difficult and takes a very expert technique with a hammer. With this the women have trouble, and they laugh a great deal at each other.

To turn from the building project now, let us think about the airplane, The Arctic Messenger. The year of 1952 saw the first real test of what the plane could and could not do.

Three round trips to Fairbanks were made. The first for repairs and a new flight certificate; also took in Presbytery with one of our new young Elders. The second flight was for the float installation and the preparatory stop at Anaktuvak Pass on floats. (More will be said about this directly under "out-work".) This stop at Anaktuvak was made on the return trip from Fairbanks. Landing on this little lake is no problem, but taking off with no passengers and barely enough gas to make Barrow with no head wind is a problem. Each time I have done it, the take off was too close for comfort. I have always had to wait for just the right wind, without which take-off there would be absolutely impossible. Actually, to do our proper job at Anaktuvak, I should take in an Elder, and also should operate with a broader safety margin which the Piper Clipper does not allow, even without the extra weight and emergency supplies a passenger would involve.

I have made five trips to Wainwright and three to Meade River. These villages are more within the range of the present plane. Passengers can safely be carried and ample fuel supply can be carried at the same time for a round trip. However on three occasions, I have had to leave spare gas behind because I could not get airborne on the take-off. No matter what the manufacturers claim for this airplane, it is definitely limited in loading. When carrying the extra weight and drag of floats, this is particularly true. Under these conditions, the plane is not classified as a four-place aircraft. I have forced it into the air when carrying two Vacation Bible School teachers and their luggage from Wainwright to Barrow and return. Where there is a very large, comparatively calm, body of water as there is at Wainwright, the take-off run can be extended indefinitely and speed picked up down wind on the water, then a turn made into the wind on one float to reduce drag and make a take-off possible. This not the best thing, but it works where possible. On trying to get off here at Barrow for the return flight, the much smaller lagoon makes a big difference, almost too big.

In addition to the aforementioned problems there are others too technical to mention here, but we do continue to have radio and instrument troubles. Primarily because this plane is too small to properly mount and ~~not~~ install some of the equipment needed. It was very discouraging to get the Directional Gyro (compass) mounted only to have it break down because of inadequate shock mounting.

This type of instrument turns at 14,000 to 35,000 RPM and the bearings will not stand vibration. At present this instrument needs repairs which will run in excess of \$40.00.

On the third Fairbanks trip this last summer to remove the floats and have the new skis fitted, a second stop was made at Anaktuvak Pass. I stayed there three full days, taking in a good load of supplies and clothing.

It should be reported here that this trip was not without its miracles. I delayed leaving Barrow to the last possible day that the lagoon here was still clear of ice for a float take-off. One reason for this was to get as much work done on the church building as possible before freeze-up; also I thought there might be a possibility of my returning on skis if it was late enough in the season by my return date. This would eliminate the wheels in between and save a lot of time. I knew I planned to stay with the people at Anaktuvak for a week or so, and that it would take a few days for the needed work on the plane at Fairbanks. However, things did not work out as planned. The lagoon did freeze over here two days after I left, but there was no heavy snow even by Thanksgiving time, so that when I returned, it had to be on wheels after all. Although the new skis were fitted, I had to take them off and replace with wheels in order to get home.

Another unexpected turn of events was that my stay at Anaktuvak had to be adjusted considerably. The factor of elevation had not impressed me as it should have. It had never entered my mind that it would be snowing and that the temperature would be considerably lower there than at Barrow over 200 miles farther north. The elevation of the pass is less than three thousand feet, but this plus being inland makes a big difference. On the flight south, I was soon to see snow on the lowest foothills at the edge of the tundra. By the time I was approaching the mountains all the lakes I passed over were partially covered with ice. The higher I went the more ice I saw, until finally all the lakes were frozen over. Considering the fact that the plane had been bucking a head wind all the way from Barrow, I knew I would have to land soon even if on floats. It is not impossible to land on snow with a float plane if the snow is deep, soft, and level. To land on a lake with thin ice would probably damage the plane beyond repair. As these things rolled over in my mind, quiet prayers began to reach up to God. I was not particularly upset, but most curious as to how the Lord would work this out. The Bettles CAA Field was better than an hour on through the Pass and down the John River. In all probability the lakes in that direction would become more and more free of ice, but could I even make it that far? This question did not have to be answered. As I approached the little lake (about 300 yards from the summit where the village site is), down I went to buzz low over the lake. At first the black smoothness of the lake startled me as it looked like there was very smooth, clear ice covering the whole lake; but as I went lower and lower and passed down the lake, I turned to study the reflection of the mountains on the lake surface--then it was that I noticed the slightest little ripples in the reflection and the small sheets of ice piled up at the south side of the lake where an earlier wind had neatly stacked it.

After circling and waving to the people as they ran from their tents, down I settled onto the water for a most wonderful landing. I pulled the plane up on the sod through the most musical tinkling of half-inch, glass-clear ice. I gassed the plane up with five spare gallons I carried in the seat, and another five that belonged to the Wien Airline pilot who lands there once a week with mail. Later I thankfully paid for this gas at Bettles.

Soon the whole village was there to meet me and help carry all the things to the tent I planned to use. While some helped tie the airplane down, others grabbed the paraphernalia, leaving me only a briefcase to carry over. After eating some supper, we held the second religious service ever held in this

village. Actually the first held earlier in the summer was not complete in the same sense as the second. This time we had nice new hymn books and a planned series of meetings and topics to preach on. The people were very happy to get started. We held services that evening (Sat.) and the next morning and evening.

It was disappointing to find that these people were very low, in fact dangerously low on food and many of the men had to leave to search for caribou and mountain sheep. Also the first night I was there the lake froze over and snow whitened the plane. A good brisk wind Sunday morning and late that night piled the ice up around the plane. The threat of being iced in plus the depletion of the population caused the week's visit to be cut to only three days. Tuesday morning was spent in cleaning the snow ~~off~~ ice off of the plane preparatory to take-off. Ice on the floats was two inches thick at places. While working on the plane it snowed intermittently, reminding us that take-off might not even be possible that day. By earlier afternoon a few spots of blue sky were seen through the snow flurries and I took off very nicely without the hymn books, extra food, and only a little over ten gallons of gas on board.

Shortly after leaving the pass and following down the John River, I passed over the first lake large enough to land on. It was frozen over solid. On to the next lake twenty minutes later, only to find it too was frozen over. It was not until then that the full pattern of the miracle of Anaktuvak Lake struck me with new force. All the lakes north and south of the lake I landed on, and needed so very much, were frozen. This was true for about sixty miles north and forty-five miles south. Pondering all this made me very grateful for God's rich blessing of making the stay at the Pass so gloriously possible even though shorter than planned.

The only other incident of the trip was a forced landing on the great Yukon River because of bad weather. The night was spent with the school teachers at Stevens Village, an Indian village on the river. This couple were Presbyterians although the village is served by the Episcopal Church.

The next day I flew down the Yukon about one hundred miles, staying under the low overcast until blue sky could be seen and I was able to start a slow turn toward Fairbanks. When out of the weather, I tried the radio (which usually does not work, but this time put out fine) and was cleared by the Defense Command to enter the Control area at 4,000 feet only and at 5:05 P.M. A request was sent to Rev. Tweedie via Nenana Radio Range to meet me where we had last seen each other on the Cheena River. I flew over College, Tom waved, climbed into his car, and a few minutes later pulled up to the river just as I climbed onto the float. I threw him the rope, tied the plane to a tree root, and began to empty the plane of emergency gear, etc.

My stay with Tweedie's is always filled with much pleasure as we were classmates in Seminary and have lots to talk over. While in Fairbanks, I did some preaching and also helped (when not busy with the plane) on the College Church construction program.

It was on the return trip to Barrow that the Directional Gyro failed. Also, while in the Brooks Range, the left Magnetto went out. It is seldom that both mags go out and the weather was such that the failure of the Gyro did not prove to be too much of a problem. I reached Barrow in the best time yet attained because of the new high RPM metal prop (which was an absolute necessity for flight with floats). This propellor gives more RPM, but more than makes up for the difference when compared to the wood prop's inefficient operation.

About 45 minutes out of Barrow, freezing rain was encountered which completely covered the windshield. Some propellor and wing ice also resulted, but

not a dangerous amount. A landing was executed on the sandspit with no forward vision. This was accomplished after two power approaches were carried through to study the wind direction and strength and to clear the area of people who often get in the way.

Other pressing work and the failure of the Aviation mechanics at the Navy base to help out as they had offered caused the plane to continue grounded since that trip. Repairs are still needed. I am sure few people realize the job it is to even keep an airplane flyable here--let alone fly it!

No trip has been made to Barter Island because of the Plane's limitations. I have felt and continue to feel very sad about this. We are not doing right by these people. I almost made a trip, despite advise to the contrary from other pilots, once this summer, but a man who has lived near the Colville River about two thirds of the way from here to Barter and flown in the Arctic for several years talked me out of it. He insisted it would be utterly foolhardy under the circumstances.

To close the section on the Arctic Messenger, let me say frankly that it should be replaced at the earliest possible date if an airplane is to be used by the mission in this northern part of the world, although it is not easy to foretell the need and usefulness of a mission plane in coming years. I have written many long letters about the plane in the last year, but apparently have not made my questions clear. I feel that I must know what the policy of the Board is in relation to this part of the work. I can not wisely talk about another plane until I know what is expected of it. Am I supposed to fly to Barter Island? Am I to be responsible for the Anaktuvak Eskimos? If so, that is too much to reasonably expect of the present Piper Clipper. Although this plane does not have so many hours on it for its age, it has sat out too long in the salt air and this climate which accelerates depreciation. I still feel this plane could probably be traded in Alaska with little or no loss. It isn't that we need such a lot bigger plane. We need one that has a panel design to mount the proper flight instruments and radio equipment. It should have a greater range--that is, a ratio of lift, load capacity, air speed, etc. that gives it more versatility. Landing flaps are imperative up here where landing conditions are seldom ideal. They increase the margin of safety on take-offs as well as landings, especially with skis.

The out-work of the Mission is no small task in itself. In the year here reported, more people have left Barrow and some have announced their plan to leave soon; still the status of Barrow village, at this writing, is about the same. The population is said to be down to less than a thousand again after hitting almost 1200, but there has been no real census to prove this. Our Every-member Canvas turned up only 65 or so names no longer resident. Some have returned to Wainwright or to inland and coastal dwellings, but there is no real trend in this direction. Too many have built rather substantial homes here and would leave only on a temporary basis, as for a season. The status of the Navy base is uncertain as usual, but our people still plan on and expect its continuation. Part of the reduction in employment is simply an efficiency effort. The imported white crews have also been cut drastically.

Included in the out-work this year was the Daily Vacation Bible School at Wainwright, which would not normally be considered part of our work. Roy wanted help in getting this started with the hope he could carry it on alone hereafter. I was there for the whole school this year as well as bringing teachers here to train, use in our school, and return to serve there. Next year we will do no more than help on planning and materials.

Barter Island, Anaktuvak Pass, and Meade River are the main areas of out-work. We continued to supply them with Sunday School materials and other aids. Barter was visited by Dr. Jackman and Rev. Armstrong in April, but no other personal service was rendered. Sunday School was inaugurated at Anaktuvak Pass and four services held. Sunday School was held regularly at Meade River and five services were held there plus some film showings and wire recordings of Barrow Worship services. Very much more could and must be done at these three villages. The surface has hardly been scratched and the problems they have are many and varied. What we need in these places are prepared men like Roy Ahmaogak. As might be expected too, the more serious physical needs we deal with today are in these out-work areas.

That leads us to a comment on the health and physical welfare situation in Barrow. The hospital work and staff is always a problem, but for the last few months the presence (under temporary appointment) of Dr. and Mrs. Ed Spencer was wonderful. They are a fine young couple and active members of the Free Methodist Church. They were most cooperative and helpful. Unfortunately they had to leave before the permanent doctor arrived. At this writing we are again without a Dr.

During this year many new cases of tuberculosis were uncovered. Many people have come home or gone to the hospitals; others are just too far advanced for hospitalization and are in the last stages of the disease. There are a few cases of spinal or tubercular meningitis almost all the time. There have been a half dozen infant mortalities from this cause and about as many more for unknown reason when no doctor was here.

Throughout this year a continuous effort was made to straighten out the Roll book. During the fall, in connection with the Spiritual Emphasis Week, all the homes were called on and the status of each person was reviewed for the sake of challenging the families and correcting remaining discrepancies. Although a new and much more adequate Roll book was obtained in 1951, the records still have not been fully straightened out. In some cases people have been carried on the Roll for twenty years after they were deceased. Many people have joined twice and are on the roll twice. The reception of about twenty-five members was not recorded or the records on them were lost. To correct the many errors has meant literally hundreds of hours of work (largely by Mrs. Wartes assisted by various Elders and Sunday School teachers). Some five Session meetings were spent almost entirely on these matters. Although the main work is over, the final job of recording all the collected and corrected material is yet to be done.

One of the results, however, to be seen is the two new and large Communicant Classes. Four classes were conducted during the year. The largest of these (64 enrolled--about 44 will complete work on time) will finish in January. An adult ~~adult~~ class (28 enrolled) started later after the Spiritual Emphasis Week, and will finish in March. These classes have from 14 to 16 meetings. Elders are assisting in the teaching of these classes.

From the standpoint of food, nature's ways are most interesting. All forms of food except the whale were in plentiful supply throughout the year at Barrow. The shortage of muktuk was made up for in the taking of numerous walrus and polar bear through late spring and summer. During the fall two more bear were shot. Meade River had some trouble with the food situation early in the summer and Anaktuvak was in serious trouble most of the summer and fall. A good portion of the people had to get out on the trail and find a caribou herd to follow.

As workers at the Navy Base decreased during the year, fewer and fewer services were held there. In the last few months it did not seem at all profitable to even make the trip. The new C.O. who is responsible for the economy

cut-back has been cooperative, but whenever he was away from the base, transportation could not be counted on and so much time was wasted.

The new school building is near completion, but construction has been halted for the last two months because of material shortages. When it will be finished is a question, but it will surely be in the year ahead as there is little remaining to be done.

It is sad to have to say it, but the second attempt at a Finance Committee was not much more successful than the first. The first Chairman operates one of the theatres here and during the year expanded his facilities to compete with the new and very elaborate Native Store theater. He even opened a Coffee Shop and held American style dancing after the shows. Certain aspects of his program came under review of the Session and their displeasure. The result was the Chairman's resignation. He has continued in a negative relation to the church since. The second Chairman, who had been asst. chairman, was personally involved in this and though he became the new chairman, this was unfortunate. Eventually he was excommunicated for a combination of factors, including utter defiance of the Session's right to enter into his life's problems.

The latter case is closely associated with the crashes in 1951 which took the lives of two Wien pilots here, and this year of a third with three Eskimo passengers. This last accident took place straight out in front of the manse at the edge of the shore ice. The occasion for this accident was the National Guard Manuevers at Anchorage when all our boys and those from Wainwright were gathering for the mass flight south. One of the Eskimos killed was an outstanding Deacon and Sunday School teacher in the Wainwright Church. He was also an A.N.S. school teacher--it was a real loss to us all.

All the aforementioned extreme adversity led our Finance Committee Chairman, who was responsible for the recovery of the bodies and the plane, back into the habit of drinking for which he had once been suspended.

It should also be mentioned here that one of the three Elders that have given us serious concern was involved in the drinking also. He was finally deposed and excommunicated. We had been overly-patient and considerate with this Elder because of his bad fire in December, 1951 which took the lives of his wife and three of his children plus all of his belongings. He admitted he had no right to the Lord's table.

When all the problems are reviewed, perhaps it will be clear why the Finance Committee has not worked too well during the year, nor why certain other things turned out other than as planned. It should be pointed out that there are definite limitations as to who can serve on this committee. If this were not so, it would be a simpler matter to get individuals who are of a stronger and more spiritual type. Those qualified by ability of a business nature are too often those who have suffered adverse effects from contact with too much modern American "culture." This will continue to be one of our problems and needs.

Speaking of accidents above reminded me that four young men were <sup>lost</sup> ~~upset~~ this year, two in August and two more in September. The first two were upset in a small fast boat and drowned. The second accident left us uncertain for a long time because the boys just disappeared while out duck hunting. There was a wide - spread search made for them, but with no result. The Air Force 10th Rescue plane got here much too late for any good use. In fact, two very stormy days followed their disappearance and it was three days before a search could be made by the Eskimos. It was six days before the Air Force arrived on the scene. Only one of the four casualties was married. His wife gave birth to a baby girl a month after the accident.

There is good reason to report elaborately on our DVBS effort this year, but as I did this in my August report, little more will be said here. One thing that we worked on most tirelessly was in the theme, "Worship of the Living God." Our own worship situation continues to need attention. Parents are slow to see the need for quiet children in the church and do little to create a better atmosphere for the services. A concerted effort is being made to avert continuation of bad worship habits when we move into the new sanctuary.

During November we began to experiment with an oscillator type radio broadcast. Two hours were given to a morning program and fifteen minutes to a late evening devotional. There is a big opportunity in this phase of the work.

During the year quarterly parties have been held for the adult choir as well as two business meetings. With two theatres in town even the midweek choir practices are threatened.

Some dozen movies were shown during the year, all of which were coordinated with some special effort. Our facilities were also used to show medical and public health films with the help of the public health nurse.

The Boy Scout work has gone forward under the able leadership of George Burdick, but his departure looms on the horizon as a threat to the stability of this program unless someone can be found and trained to carry on.

The caterpillar tractor is still out of commission so that we have had to buy our ice and hire garbage carried away.

Throughout the year a major effort has been put forth to better the Sunday School situation. The roll has been greatly increased and regular attendance encouraged by an award system. Two classes meet in the manse and one in the upstairs of the igloo. This fall a Sunday School Rally and Contest was held by our entrance into the "Christian Life" international Sunday School Contest. This program was coordinated with the Spiritual Empahsis Week and general visitation calling. (A copy of the elaborate contest report is herewith submitted to the Field Executive.) The plane and every other means we could think of were used to promote the contest. Mrs Burdick headed this up and did a splendid job.

Mrs. Burdick has conducted a week-day Bible Class and recreational groups to a good advantage. It should be put in clear type that Mrs. Burdick has made more than a full time contribution to this field during the year. It is not very accurate to refer to the Burdick's as maintenance people at this mission. Although George keeps after the routine chores, it is hard for him to restrict himself to this with the older Young People's work and Scouts can keep him busy. The maintenance is not his major contribution. Having worked with this fine couple a year and a half, it is obvious to me that their great opportunity would be in Sunday School Missions work--they are just "cut out" for it.

During the year, quarterly Singspirations were held with good attendance. Also two children's "sings" went over with a bang. More of this will be possible with the new Sanctuary and time to plan and work out details.

Our oldest daughter, Meredith, has been attending the Alaska Native Service school this last year (beginning in September). She is in the fifth grade there. Mark has been continuing his second grade studies at home, but will probably switch to the Native school very soon. This will take a great load off Mrs. Wartes' shoulders.

The shipping of fresh foods up on the North Star continues to have its drawbacks. We're afraid its just not worth what we lose by spoilage.

We continue to have deep-freeze problems. The natives say when a deep freeze goes bad, as they will do in time, the only thing to do is dig a new one. That thought just "leaves us cold," but some solution will have to be found. We have lost a great deal of meat because it will not stay frozen down there. Water stands several inches deep at the bottom all the time. We will have to admit we thought Rev. Lee's request for a refrigerator was comical in a place like this, but we now see what an advantage and convenience one would be. At the rate we've been losing food, one could almost pay for one in a very few years by the saving of food.

The family is very happy with their home and life in Barrow. All of us feel God has given us a great privilege and chosen a wonderful place for us to serve.

As I re-read this report, I see I did not mention the series of six Holy Week services climaxed by the visiting ministry of Dr. Jackman, Dr. Sweazey, and Rev. Armstrong on Easter Sunday. These services were announced to the people by a letter on lovely Easter stationery. All the meetings were greatly appreciated and many people have asked that we have the same type of program this year.

By action of the Session:

46 members dropped from the roll because they had died  
2 members dropped from the roll because they were expelled  
17 members dropped from the roll because they had been gone from Barrow  
and inactive many years.  
7 names were dropped from the roll because they were duplications (people had joined twice).  
4 members transferred their membership to some other vicinity.

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76 Total Members Dropped as of January 1953

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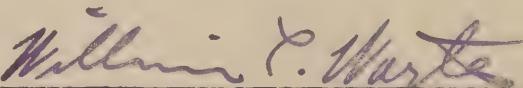
20 new members by Confession of Faith  
12 names added to Roll by action of the Session because they were known to  
be members of long standing.  
3 new members by transfer of letter

35 Total Members Added as of January 1953

Record of Members as of January 1, 1952 was 437  
Add (as above) 35  
472  
Subtract as above - 76

Membership of Barrow Presbyterian Church 396 as of January 15, 1953.

All the names of the above mentioned additions, subtraction, and correction  
will be put in the new Roll book. All the foregoing has been reviewed by the  
Session and acted upon.

  
Rev. William C. Wartes,  
Moderator of the Session  
Barrow Presbyterian Church

## *Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church*

REV. WM. C. WARTES  
MISSIONARY-PASTOR-PILOT  
SAMUEL SIMMONDS  
LAY PREACHER

FOUNDED 1891  
**BARROW, ALASKA**

FRED IPALOOK  
CLERK OF SESSION

June 2, 1928

S. Challen...p. 2/

going to be not and solved in a day or a year, but all in all things are going well here. You will come to a very very different situation than I came to, but this has been true of every missionary coming here. This is true, simply because the Eskimo culture is going through very rapid and sometimes difficult periods of change. In addition to this is the fact of the airplane having been used these years and the opening up of the work at Anaktuvik Pass, which was not even known at the time of our appointment; and also the erection and dedication of the new sanctuary in 1953. There is still work to be done on the building, and some materials will be coming on the supply ship North Star this September. However, your ministry will take a different turn than ours; of this I am

program during our two terms. It has been much more than that, as we have developed numerous new things in the program here...but I would be the first to point out that there is a very great number of things that have not been done that I would think are almost bare essentials...still we could not do everything. We have, in fact, possibly attempted too much in our eagerness to meet the needs...if such a thing is possible. The need for a little different kind of leadership than I have given is at least a part of our thinking on not asking to be re-appointed. It seems that there should be a 'shift of gears' so to speak...and I honestly believe that it would be easier and of more success for a new missionary than one who has been so much a part of an old system and set of habits.

You will have to excuse my spelling and this most unresponsive typewriter. It has a few mechanical quirks that give me some trouble...and throwing these in with some of my own inability gives a poor end result.

My great hope and prayer for the field here is that someone will be able to go on and build in the spiritual, educational, and cultural areas of the life of these people. One thing I would stress is that you do give most serious attention to the learning of the language. You will not want to use it in the preaching, as this is sometimes even difficult for the Eskimo. There just are not enough words to say many of the things that the Bible would demand. Still an occasional Inupiat word is a help at getting across an idea. Much of the preaching will have to be interpreted for many years to come. At the present time we have an all Inupiat (the accent is on the second syll.) Pre-service at 10:15 AM which Samuel Simonds, our Lay Preacher, takes on his own. This goes directly into the all English 11 AM service. The evening service is a combination of both and is the best attended.

We will be sending along under separate cover some of our old news letters and things to give you some help in orientation. However, it will be a very serious disappointment to us if we do not get to meet you and go into things in a more advanced way. There will probably be only time for a few hours together. Not only will we be here, but

when it comes to some of the plane matters and the airplane equipment itself you will really be out on a limb. It would only be common sense to know that everything we can do to give you the most help and guidance from our own experience should be done. In making this point I am not thinking about our office as missionary or pastor so much as pilot. I do not have much to say about how or what particular turn your leadership should take...if it has appeared that this is my main concern; then rest assured it is not. I have tried to point out that I believe a fresh approach to the work here is a real need. It is hard for me to say just what this should be not knowing you...but I have the confidence that the Holy Spirit himself will be the answer to your needs in this, and while change itself is not necessarily good, still it has within it the possibility of new vision and insights that are much to be desired.

Even before reading your letter this morning I had written to Dr. Jackman urging him to encourage your getting here as soon as possible. Our first expectation was to leave the field by this date, but we were asked to remain for the Alaska Seminar we are now expecting on July second. We have adjusted our own plans accordingly. Now, with the last word that you could not get here before the first of August we have set a departure date so as to attempt meeting you in route through Seattle. Because of some complications on our vacation time we should be in Seattle before the end of July. Samuel is not very happy about our leaving before you arrive, but at the moment it seems that this will be the plan...but we are most willing to say 'Lord willing' we will do this or that. We are now committed to be in California by early in August. If it would be at all reasonable for you to get here by the 21st. or 24th of July, we could and would stay on this long and give a day or so to going over the plane and the geography of the area. Most important would be some time for you in the plane on the water operation prior to trying to do anything on the more difficult and treacherous rivers involved on the flight to and from Fairbanks. I would not like to see you have to start out from scratch on the river at Fairbanks with a Cessna 170 on floats. This airplane, while very adequate for our needs, is not a flashy performer in any way. It is not high powered, nor able to get off of calm water with much of a load. There is a possibility that the plane will have a two-speed propeller installed for your use, but this is not certain. There was such a piece of equipment offered to us recently by the Bishop of Alaska (Episcopate) at a good price, but later we found that it was incomplete and that possibly we could not have it after all. I am awaiting word on this momentarily...Dr. Jackman has given the necessary approval for me to go ahead on this at my own discretion.

The above mentioned possibility of taking over these matters in Seattle is the alternative plan. We will not go ahead on any reservations for our part until we hear from both Dr. Jackman and yourself. If we can hear from you prior to his

arrival here on July second, it will be of considerable help to us in planning our departure.

I know it is no small matter to up and move half way around the world, but when it is realized that there are eight of us, then you can see we cannot do this moving without some serious complications either. I do not feel free to speak for Dr. Jackman; but I do know that he is most cooperative and will really leave it up to you, not high pressuring you into an actual date of arrival...and I feel that is right. None the less if you cannot make it through Seattle until mid August I am afraid we will not be able to get together. We will have a difficult time now, with everything considered, setting settled enough to have the children ready for school come September. I had hoped for two and a half months to do this, but it now looks like we may have but a month or even less. I would mention quickly that I do not know your own situation, nor what would be in the realm of possibility, and we will have to await word as to what you can work out for the greatest good for all. I might say candidly, that if I did not care about you, the work, or the airplane I would leave on the 7th of July; but because there is only so much time in the summer, and if you did not arrive until August, then half of the summer flying time on floats would be gone and you would be very hard pressed to even make one trip to each of the two stations: Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass. It is my plan now to stay on, to put the plane on floats and stop over in the Pass for a few days on the return flight; then to spend one Sunday here before going over to Kaktovik on Barter Island for my last service there. This will give us a chance to get a little more use out of the plane during the summer making it worth while to put it on floats and of course getting these two fields served at least once during the summer. I have been to Anaktuvuk about five times since Easter, but only once to Kaktovik...the bulk of my time and strength going to getting the chapel in the mountains under way before break-up there at Anaktuvuk. This program has been one of the most gratifying that you could imagine. To see those dog teams hauling the tremendous loads of logs all those miles from South of the Pass as far as forty miles, was quite an experience for me.

Let me try now to answer some of your direct questions. I would like to think you could have as much time on instruments as possible...not that you will be flying instruments intentionally, but you will be in white out conditions, and if you do not have good instrument orientation it is easy to get in real trouble fast. Even good men who fly commercially every day do not do intentional instrument flying single engine. If they do they are more often sorry than proud of what they did and frequently are not around to talk about it any more. We have no omni in Alaska, and no radio range stations in our area. We do have the B&W line sites all along the coast where much of the flying is done. There are about fifty in Alaska, and the radio range stations are about twenty-five.

23 1958

ers ... p. 5/

that give a new pilot much of his trouble. For this reason a person can learn many times faster with a qualified instructor, putting him into intentional real weather flight. This does not have to be turbulent weather, but only enough to lose all horizon, sky, and ground. You will find that some instructors will not want to bother with this. But if they are really able to understand what you might get into here they will give you extra consideration...I hope.

Do not get the idea that you should be extensively qualified for instruments, this would be good but not a requirement. It would seem to me that flying here at anyplace is mostly a clear case of pilot judgment. If you want to you could get in trouble with weather in short order on almost any flight. In seven years I have never had a engine failure, I have had five forced landings because of weather; and I have come near running out of fuel many times, but never did. If you are not foolish and do not press the weather and the conditions generally, you will make out alright. Your first year will be the hardest, but in a short time you will know the plane and the area and be very

good number of pilots in the area on different kinds of business. Do not worry about the skid operation. Once things are frozen up here there is hardly any place you cannot land on skids. It involves only two serious things...no cross wind landings, and no brakes. When you are on glare ice this is something you must not forget...in snow you stop fast enough. The plane is well equipped, with full instrumentation and three radios...one ~~2~~ two VHF unit, a ~~Prudhoe~~ low and high freq. transmitter of ~~5~~ ~~15~~ ~~watt~~ output...which most of the time makes it possible for me to work Barrow even from Anaktuvuk Pass three hundred miles ~~150~~ ~~100~~ miles away. There is no ~~airline~~ radio station as there is no CAA here.

Bonnie has tried to answer many of the questions Barbara would normally ask, but I note she did not mention the washer as to being a ringer type. We have little water pressure for an automatic type. We do have a dish washer, but because of low water pressure ~~make~~ ~~use~~ it in a fully manual way. It is too bad you have sent some of the things without knowing the need, but that cannot be helped. As soon as we hear your sizes we can give you more advise on some of the clothing...but generally the less you bring of everything the happier you will be.

This is a terrible mess as far as letters go...and the length is enough to make you want to miss us in Seattle or some other place lest you get stuck a month talking.

With much love and understanding,  
In His Service,  
Bill

JUL 23 1958

A basic order which might be ordered for the incoming couple.  
 There will be some things left from our supplies, a list of which we will send later.

1 case	24/303	Stokely Apple Sauce
1 case	24/24	Libby's Unpeeled Apricots
1 case	24/303	Choice Boysenberries
1 case	12/303	Del Monte Dark Sweet Cherries
1 case	24/303	Libby Royal Ann Lt Swt Cherries
1 case	24/24	Fruit Cocktail
1 case	24/303	Fruit-Salad Citrus Salad
1 case	24/	Mandarin Oranges
1 case	24/24	Sliced Yellow Cling Peaches
1 case	24/24	Del Monte 1/2 Freestone Peaches
1 case	24/24	Doles Sliced Pineapple
1 case	24/24	Doles Crushed Pineapple
1 case	41/54 oz	Fressweet Lemon Juice
1 case	24/303	Swt Orange Juice
1 case	24/46 oz	Swt Orange Juice
1 case	24/40 oz	Blended Orange & Grapefruit juice
1 case	24/1303	Pineapple Juice
1 case	24/6 oz	Grape Juice
1 case	24/6 oz	Real Gold Grape Base
1 case	12/24 oz	Kai Gold Blended Base
1 case	24/14	Porter's Punch
1 case	24/6-12 oz	Drommery Pitted Dates
1 case	24/303	Sun Maii Nectar Seedless Raisins
1 case	24/303	Del Monte All Grn Cut Asparagus Tips
1 case	24/303	Libby Whole Green Beans
1 case	24/303	Del Monte Lima Beans
1 case	12/14	B & M Brown Bread
1 case	24/303	Baby Jack Bn Stk Small Whole Carrots
1 case	24/303	Fancy Whole Kernel Corn
1 case	24/303	Green Giant Peas
1 case	24/303	Peas & Carrots
1 case	24/303	Del Monte New Whole Potatoes
2 cases	12/7 oz	French's Instant Potatoes
1 case	24/40 oz	Crispy Shoestring Potatoes
1 case	24/303	Veg-All
1 case	12/40 oz	V-Cocktail Veg Juice
1 case	24/24	Fancy Whole pack Tomatoes
1 case	24/303	Stokely Finest Stewed Tomatoes
1 case	24/1303	Tomato Juice
1 case	24/46 oz	Tomato Juice
1 case	12/14 oz	Catsup
1 case	12/24 oz	Peter Pan Peanut Butter (Creamy)
1 case	12/Pts	Beet Root Mayonnaise
1 case	6/24	Kraft American Processed Cheese
1 case	30/1/48	Allsweet Margarine
1 case	12/12	Assorted Sunny Jim Preserves

LUL 23 1948

1 case	12/20 oz.	Sunny Jim Fruit-Berry Jelly
1 case	12/Qts.	Planters Peanut Oil
1 case	12/3#	Crisco
1 case	4#/1	Campbells Tomato Soup
1 case	4#/1	Campbells Vegetable Beef Soup
1 case	12/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Lynden Sliced Chicken
1 case	12/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Lynien Boned Turkey
1 case	24/12 oz.	Armour Chopped Beef
1 case	24/16 oz.	Mary Kitchen Canned Beef Hash
1 case	12/30 oz.	Nalley's Beef Stew
1 case	24/10 oz.	Oscar Mayer Wieners in Brine
1 case	24/1#	Dennison Meat Balls
1 case	12/3#	Alber's Flapjack Pancake Mix
1 case	12/10 oz.	Master Cinnamon Roulst
1 case	12/30 oz.	Sailor Boy Pilot Bread
1 case	12/2#	Honey Graham Crackers
1 case	12/2#	Soda Crackers
1 case	24/12 oz.	Libby Roast Beef
1 case	12/17 oz.	Dinner Time Beef Pot Pie
1 case	12/17 oz.	Dinner Time Chicken Pot Pie
1 case	24/13 oz.	Swift Veal Cutlets w/Gravy
1 case	24/6 oz.	Rath Breakfast Sausage
10 cases	40/Tall	Bordens Canned Milk
0 cases	12/Qts.	Carnation Powdered Skim Milk
6 sacks	50#	Fisher's Blend Flour
1 case	24/1#	Nestle's Quik
1 case	12/2#	M.J.B. Regular Grini Coffee
0 sacks	25#	Cane Sugar
1 case	24/1#	Brown sugar
1 case	24/1#	Powdered Sugar
1 case	24/26-oz.	Merten Iodized Salt
1 case	24/24-oz.	Log Cabin Waffle Syrup
1 case	12/12-oz.	Locking Glass Mixed Dried Fruit
1 case	4/10#	All Detergent
1 case	12/22 oz.	Lux Liquid Detergent
1 case	36/400	Scotties White Facial Tissue
1 case	100 rolls	Scott Toilet Tissue
1 case	48/1#	Butter in Tin
1 case	4/3-4#	Tinned Boneless Hams
1 case	30 dozen	Fresh Eggs
1 case	4 tins	Sliced Bacon (This is wrapped in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. with about 6# to a tin.)

(There will be several kinds of soups, vegetables, cake mixes, cereals, 'elles, puddings, pickles, and fish, as well as baking powder, baking soda, 5# nails, etc. left when we leave so these are not on the above order.)

JUL 23 1958

# Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church

REV. WM. C. WARTES  
MISSIONARY-PASTOR-PILOT  
SAMUEL SIMMONDS  
LAY PREACHER

FOUNDED 1891  
BARROW, ALASKA

FRED IPALOOK  
CLERK OF SESSION

June 24, 1958

Dear Barbara:

It was a joy to get John's letter this morning and such a relief to know that the appointment has been completed. There are a thousand and one things I have in my mind to tell you that I know I'll ramble on and on if I don't watch out--I do hope you don't wear out before I get through. It would be most wonierful if we could sit down and talk it all through but this will have to do. Bill will be writing to John too so I'll concentrate on household and clothing topics.

The first thing I would urge you is to go slow on the buying. I was sorry I bought so much before we came. Almost everything was wrong! It is so much better to wait and order from Sears or Wards or from one of the two or three wholesale houses the mission deals with because of the little "Bookstore" here. (The Fellowship Bookstore is just a little Geneva Fellowship sponsored venture to provide an easy access for the people to Christian books, Bibles, pictures, and records--because so much of this type of thing is used for prizes, awards, gifts, etc., it is really a non-profit deal, but it is a Christian service. Anyway, wholesale houses will sell to us because of it and we order clothes, household appliances, etc. from them at a great saving.)

There is so much here already in the way of linens, appliances, furniture, and even clothes that you may find that you are only duplicating if you buy before you arrive. (I did) We have two toasters and I was going to leave one for you but if you have your own already, we will take both of ours (with a family the size of ours, we can use two toasters anyway.) There is an electric mixer, iron, washer, dryer, refrigerator, deep-fat fryer, and sewing machine as well as melmac dishes, silverware (well, most of it would classified as hardware; I brought my own silverware and if you have some, you may wish to do the same although there is an adequate amount of the other), kitchen utensils, mixing bowls, pots & pans, glasses, etc. already here. It may be that you will want some of your own pots and pans as everyone has favorites kinds and sizes but there will be some here and might be all you need. I have some of my own I will take with me.

There are stacks and stacks of sheets, towels, washcloths, dish towels, table cloths, curtains, and drapes. Most of these are furnished by women's groups from the states. I brought a trunk full seven years ago and have never used them--it was such a waste of shipping costs.

There is an old but sturdy highchair here without a tray to use at the table. Our baby sleeps in an Eskimo-style swinging bed which we will be leaving and you may wish to use it for your wee one. (Do you have a child older than the new baby? I am hazy on the facts concerning your family.) There is a youth bed. It does not have sides on it but is youth bed or large crib size and two mattresses to fit it. It may be that if you do not need both of them and do not foresee the need of them in the near future, you could give one of them to Samuel as I think one of his youngsters could use it. (This only just occurred to me and I have not explored the need there but will do or say nothing about it just in case you want to use both of them.) There is not a playpen here but since you have a baby, I will leave the teeter-babe. You will have very little use for a buggy. There is no one in Barrow with one because two months of the year everything is mud and sand and all the rest of the year it is snow and ice. The little ones are carried

Alaska's North Slope: BARROW, KAKTOVIK, ANAKTUVUK PASS AND MEADE RIVER

on Mommy's back and the older ones are pulled on a sled unless they can make out on their own two feet. I have carried all of ours on my back because it is so much easier on me and so very much safer for the baby. You will need a regular woman's parka for that but I am pretty sure you will want one anyway (if you are not sure right away, I'll almost guarantee you will in time.)

Mentioning parkas brings me to the subject of clothes. I would appreciate your letting me know as soon as possible the family's sizes. We have a great deal of warm clothing we will be giving away and would rather leave for you if they will fit. For the most part you will dress here just as you do there except for your outdoor garments. These, I am sure, you will want to be what all the other folks here wear. Again, we have some we would be happy to sell to you if they are the right size. If not, any number of women here can make just what you want and you will be so much happier with that than anything you can buy there. The children wear cotton union suits most of the year and the girls wear tan cotton hose. (I practically made my girls social outcasts by foolishly purchasing white cotton hose, thinking that would be the most stylish. In tears, they explained that the children thought their white longies were showing! Live and learn!) Of course, the little babies wear white cotton hose. Do not over-buy for the baby either although you probably have a pretty adequate layette already. However, several women's groups still send baby clothes and always seem extra pleased when the missionary's baby gets a share. Because most of the mission-box gifts are sold, rather than given, to the people, I also pay the same for them that I charge for them (which is considerably less than they would pay anywhere else but gives them a responsible feeling of having earned what they got rather than being on a dole--this is a program that pre-dates our coming here and I'd love to be able to talk it over with you as it is a bit complicated). On the other hand, if the donating mission group writes as if they intended my children have something from the box, I gratefully accept it as a gift. It is a wonderful help in a land that is otherwise an expensive place to live. Also, you will find yourself deluged with the most wonderful Christmas gifts from church friends in the States. It has ever seemed a miracle to us--even the children never cease to be amazed.

I should have mentioned when writing of the linens that there are also many, many quilts, army blankets, sheet blankets, etc. so that you really should not need to bring anything like that.

Let's see, I guess the next subject should be food. I will enclose a copy of the food order I sent in for you to come on the North Star the first week of September. Of course, this order was sent before we knew you would be coming but we figured on a couple plus an intern. (George Johnson arrived yesterday) I do hope you will not be disappointed. If I have ordered something you cannot use, you will have no trouble selling it locally. You will notice that some important items are not on the order and I hasten to say that is because I have an oversupply already here. Before we leave, everything will be itemized and you will be billed and we will be paid for them--at least, that's the way they did it when we moved here. For instance, I am pretty certain there will be a dozen or two dozen cans of beets (various cuts as well as whole, plain and pickled) left over so I did not put beets on the order for this year. There is hand soap left (ivory), baking powder, baking soda, Knox gelatin, powdered buttermilk (good for cooking, not for drinking), assorted cereals, all kinds of seasonings, assorted cake mixes, various canned seafoods, etc.--these and all the other foods we will itemize later on. I would urge you to make a list of the baby foods you will need for the year and send it to Warne Clarke (I guess you have to send it through Dr. Jackman's office if the Board is to pay the shipping on it and pro-rate the purchase price on your salary) with instructions to have them shipped parcel post. I will have little or no baby foods left when I leave. I have even ordered some from Fairbanks to tide me over. Although they are expensive, one can buy almost anything locally, even fresh fruits and vegetables. (25¢ an orange, 20¢ an apple, 25¢-30¢ a banana, 80¢ a head of lettuce, etc.) It is wonderful when some missionary group from the states sends you a \$5.00 Christmas gift to splurge it on the makings of a salad and some oranges and apples. Unless,

you have a private million stashed away, give up any dream you might have of fresh milk. It is not available locally and would cost a small fortune weekly to have it flown in from Fairbanks. One learns to mix Carnation Instant so that it tastes almost like "the real thing." Oh, I do wish we could have had a week or two here together; it would have been so much fun and I think I could have been a help on oddles of little things.

I know you will be very happy here. If you have a lot of preconceived notions, I'll bet you will have nearly all of them changed if you are anything like we were. We have loved our work here, the people, the land,--just all of it. For one thing, you will be so busy you won't have time to be discontented. I hope you have a good sense of humor--it helps a lot in boosting you over the humps of adjustment.

If only we can make arrangements to meet you in Seattle. We will show you slides and answer questions--I am sure we could talk a leg off you.

I really think I will quit now but I will be happy to answer any questions you have. Do let us know how big you are. Merrily and I both have fur parkas we want to sell and would like to give you first chance if you think you would like them. Mine is the regular woman's style with the fur (rabbit) inside and covered with a cloth "snowshirt." I have several snowshirts for it. If you are between 5' and about 5' 4" and 110-150 lbs., you should be able to wear it. They are a loose (almost make one think of a "mother Hubbard") garment so an exact fit is not so important. Merrily's parka is fur (mink) outside, jacket style with zipper. Both parkas have large sectioned wolf and wolverine ruffs. Don't feel obligated to take either one at all. We just wanted to give you a chance at them first. I am not positive I want to sell mine but I admit it would be foolish to take it. Oh, dear, I have to quit (or you will). Forgive my wordiness.

Let us hear from you soon and tell us about your family. Our children are so curious as to who? and how many? and how old?

Most sincerely,

*Bonnie*

Day Letter:

Mr. & Mrs. G. Young <sup>Deceased</sup> and baby. Wolfgang &  
Carol Brown July 24 of at a Jackson, O. A. 9. 6  
days older & wife with John weight 3 lbs 12 oz  
height 5' 5" weight 130. 0 1-1-1948 150

\$6.35

64  
6.49

6/11 23 1958

Open Side  
Barrow, Alaska  
Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church

REV. WM. C. WARTES  
MISSIONARY-PASTOR-PILOT  
SAMUEL SIMMONDS  
LAY PREACHER

FOUNDED 1891  
BARROW, ALASKA

FRED IPALOOK  
CLERK OF SESSION

*Re-draft for new lines in  
(Chambers)*

Dear Barbara and John,

June 30, 1958

So many people have trouble with their Post Office giving them a bum steer on mail and packages to Barrow that it occurred to me I had better let you know what is what right away. Barrow is Parcel Post zone 8 from the States and that is the highest zone number there is. You are also zone 8 from Seattle so that if you intend Parcel Post anything to Barrow to go on the boat, don't do it. Most probably this information comes too late. It is no more expensive to Parcel Post all the way to Barrow than it is to Parcel Post to Seattle. Unless it is an absolute necessity, do not send anything freight or express as it will go to Fairbanks where someone will have to pick it up and take it to Wien's Airlines to be Air Freighted in. Parcel Post comes into Barrow from Fairbanks by air but one pays the regular Parcel Post rate anyway. Airmail from New York takes three or four days, Parcel Post about three weeks.

From the news just received, you will be moving to the STATE of Alaska. No longer can we talk about going to the States.

I missed the outgoing mail this morning so I'm going to finish this later today. We are really running around like chickens with their heads cut off these days. On top of getting ready to leave and finishing up a jillion almost finished projects, the Seminar is due here the second. As soon as we have the Music Festival program mimeographed, I will send you one. That will be the main program for them but is an annual affair (at least we have had one every year for five years) whether a Seminar comes or not. Always before I have prepared all the meals too but this year (if there is no slip-up) the ladies of Geneva Fellowship will be responsible for the dinner. I will have lunch for them when they get here and breakfast for them before they leave but dinner will be served in the Rec. room at the church. I think there are 28 coming this year. Well, I had better quit chattering and get to work!

I was going to add a few other notes to this tonight but Bill just came in to ask if I'd get the Monthly Activity Calendar stencil cut so that he could run it in the morning. Some of the Polar Bearers will be coming by to get them to distribute tomorrow.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie*

JUL 23 1958

# Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church

REV. WM. C. WARTES  
MISSIONARY-PASTOR-PILOT  
SAMUEL SIMMONDS  
LAY PREACHER

FOUNDED 1891  
BARROW, ALASKA

FRED IPALOOK  
CLERK OF SESSION

July 3, 1958

Dear John,

The 1958 Alaska Traveling Seminar just flew over head on their way out of Barrow inroute to St. Lawerance Island and other points. We had a great time, with some 470 out last night to our Music Festival. It actually was so crowded that some foilks could not get in the church. There were eleven tape recordings made of the program...one on a Ampex and another on a magnachord...and many on less expesneive types of equipment...it was a sight to see all the recorders working, and a serious problem to the movement of two of the choirs who were not in the choir loft. I have included program for your interest and also some old activity calenders.

The main thing I wanted to write about is the fact that the seminar brought in some food for you, and we are to use what we need of this until your arrival and work out the adjustment of this with the other food in our stores here.

Also, Dr. Jackman told me of the telegram he sent you advising of his wish that you get here at the earliest possible date. We were happy to have your wire notifying us of your hope to be here before our departure. I recommended and he heartily approved the idea of you flying in all the way to Fairbanks with me so that we could talk over the whole area and related check points along the flight course. We are anxious to get away, but I would be most happy to do this for you, and ided have been prayerful that this would work out some way from the first. The plane will be do for a 500 hour inspection at approximately that time anyway. This will give me a chance to introduce you at Anaktuvuk Pass and will be a great blessing.

We will await word on you intended arrival prior to requesting our reservations to Seattle, so let us here your completed plans at the earliest possible date.

I am sure you and George Johnson will get along fine; and it will be wonderful for you to work together with him, as he is already proving himself a blessing here...having gotten a number of little jobs long needed accomplished. It will be especially good to sit down with you fellows and Samuel and discuss the work and help you line things out.

Ever His, and yours,

William C. Wartes.

P.S. I do not know whether Bonnie mentioned the fact that we have a Eskimo style swinging bed for the baby (our latest is 6 Months), and that we will be leaving this. We think it is the gretes thing yet for a babe. If you once see how they work out I'm sure you will want to use this.

Alaska's North Slope: BARROW, KAKTOVIK, ANAKTUVUK PASS AND MEADE RIVER

JUL 23 1958

# Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church

REV. WM. C. WARTES  
MISSIONARY-PASTOR-PILOT  
SAMUEL SIMMONDS  
LAY PREACHER

FOUNDED 1891  
BARROW, ALASKA

FRED IPALOOK  
CLERK OF SESSION

July 9, 1958

Dear Barbara,

We certainly know what you mean when you say, "I just don't know where to begin doing what!" We are in the same fix. I'll tell you though that it has given us a lift to know that you're coming and that you will be able to come earlier than we first thought. It has been very hard for us to reconcile ourselves to leaving the Arctic but it made it nigh impossible when the Board could give us no sure word on a successor. We were greatly cheered when John wrote of his appointment but it still bothered us that there would be an interval of time between our departure and your arrival. Bill was especially worried about not being able to help John become oriented to the Arctic Messenger. To receive John's wire that you would come soon was a wonderful answer to prayer!

I know there will be adjustments for you to make but possibly less than you think. Barrow is no longer the isolated place it was a few years back. Then, too, like I did, I imagine you will find yourself so busy, you won't have time to be "homesick". The house is big, old-fashioned, and sort of barn-shaped but quite comfortable. The kitchen is large but a lot of the room is taken up by refrigerator, clothes drier, washing machine and rinse tubs, range, cabinets & cupboards, table and chairs, dishwasher, etc. There is an extendable dining table in the living room but we rarely eat there--almost always in the kitchen. The dishwasher is temporarily out of commission. Bill keeps intending to fix the pump which took to pumping water out on the floor--probably something stuck in the hose--but never has time. I hope John is (or can develop into) a fairly capable "jack-of-all-trades" as one has to do so many things here he would never think of tackling most places. You will find the clothes drier a great blessing as there are only a very few days a year one can hang clothes outside that they don't freeze almost immediately. I used to have to hang all our clothes to dry from lines in the kitchen and was that ever a mess! Imagine having to cook and eat with wet sheets and diapers forever flapping in your face. So many people gave us small cash gifts when we were out on furlough in 1954 asking us to buy ourselves a "treat". Boy, we couldn't think of a better treat than to pool them all and buy a dryer so we did. It takes quite awhile to dry anything because the current is low (although I think with the new gasoline deal, the power is to be improved) but anything is better than what we did have.

We are just "next door" to the hospital and have fine medical service now--(it was a mess when we moved here)--with a resident doctor, dentist, and nurses. Everyone is kind and cooperative. We are in the midst of a change of staff over there but I'm sure this won't change things much. We have a new director of nurses, the Public Health nurse left and a new one is due soon, the doctor left a week ago and there is a temporary doctor here until the new one is on the job.

Our youngsters are just wild to meet Sara Lynn. "I'm saving this for Sara Lynn" is getting to be a by-word around here. I will leave Pepper's cotton hose and a corduroy coverall suit or two he has outgrown. I have given some of his shirts, stockings, gowns, etc. away, that was before I know you had a baby, but I will be happy to leave what is left! You will dress her here the same as you would there (except for those 90° temps you mentioned)

When I realized how short a time you have been married and how so many of your things are wedding gifts, I was sort of sorry I had discouraged you bringing your own linens, etc. because I know you would have enjoyed them just from the standpoint of remmbering the friends who sent them. Most of what is here is good but not new but folks from interested and supporting churches frequently send new things. The thing is, when I came I brought many of my choice linens and bought a lot of things special, thinking I had to stock up. Then when I get here and saw the drawers, closets, shelves filled with towels, sheets, table cloths, and napkins, I didn't even unpakk what I brought. I'm just shippng them back and it seems such a waste. I didn't want you to spend a penny for such things until you got here and saw what is what.

What ever little gowns, dresses, and sweaters you have for Sara Lynn should do until she is to the crawling stage. Then you will want coveralls for everyday. I have always kept my youngsters dressed (shirt, diaper, stockings, and a suit or dress) but nearly all the Eskimo babies wear just a little shirt around their homes. It makes me shiver to see them. I guess it tends to make them hardy but I still feel that it is one reason my youngsters have fewer colds and illnesses.

Mark shot a caribou last week so we will have some fresh meat for you upon arrival. Bill expects to get some more before we leave. ~~The~~ Dr. Jackman brought in some case goods when he came on the Seminar to pad out the supplies until the North Star gets here. I know you will have no worry about groceries. Do remember to get what you need for Sara Lynn though. Have it sent Parcel Post from Seattle or Fairbanks. I am using our Osterizer to puree foods for our baby.

Bill is in Fairbanks this week getting the floats on the Arctic Messenger III and hopes to get a new variable pitch prop. He is convinced this will make a wonderful difference in getting the plane off small lakes and give it better cruise speed on less gas too. Next week he will make his last trip to Barter Island. He will stop at Anaktuvuk Pass en his way back from Fairbanks. He was on wheels going in and there is no wheel landing at the Pass--only skis in winter and floats in summer.

I must close now but "hurry home" and we'll just talk a leg off you when you get here. I wish you could be here next week so John could go to Barter Island with Bill. Oh, I know the Lord will help us all to work things out for the very best; we are daily waiting on Him as we have no plans of our own at all. Sometimes it is hard to be patient but I know I can trust Him for the future. I keep telling the children that we must not get too curieus because I am sure God has a wonderful place for us and He is keeping it for a surprise. We have put off our departure from Barrow so many times that our family (mothers, sisters, brothers, etc.) is about to give us up as hopeless.

Lovingly, in Him who is Love,

*Bonnie*